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COUNTRY CzechoslovakiaREPORT NO.

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TOPIC Border Control in the Area of HRANICE*CHEB, CzechoslovakiaEVALUATION 25X1XPLACE OBTAINED 25X1ADATE OF CONTENT 25X1ADATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 17 August 1949REFERENCES PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) REMARKS

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1. An SNB unit of about 60 men was stationed in the former poor-house located in the Kuznove Valley opposite the "Blous & Sturm" factory, HRANICE (M 51/P 19), in mid-June 1949. In early June 1949 this unit received twenty-five Czechoslovakian Army soldiers who had extended their service and were to be given training in border duty. They went on patrol with SNB personnel and were engaged in the construction of observation towers. The SNB unit was commanded by ? rank RICHTER, a Communist.
2. The main effort of the border control in the HRANICE-AS (M 51/P 18) area was directed at the border of the US Zone of Germany, while the border of the Soviet Zone of Germany was patrolled by only eight men. Border duty on the German side of the Soviet Zone of Germany was exercised by Soviet Zone police units.
3. Czech reservists, who lived in the border area and had been trained in border duty, were instructed not to report to their Czechoslovakian Army units in case of mobilization, but to go to the nearest customs-police post.
4. SNB flying platoons were stationed in AS, CHEB (N 51/P 37) and VYSOCKA (N 50/P 46). The CHEB platoon consisted of three 9-man squads, equipped with motor vehicles, rifles and light machine guns. The flying platoons had been detached to the border area
5. Plans had allegedly been made to evacuate all people living in a 1.25-miles strip along the Czech-Bavarian border.

 Comment:

- a. on 24 June 1949 former Sudeten-German villages in the Czech-Bavarian border area were being demolished. Seven houses in EICHELBERG (M 51/P 27) had been

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demolished by blasting. Other houses were torn down by tractors. Members of the demolition details stated that the villages in the border zone were to be demolished according to plan.

b. [redacted]
[redacted] border-traps were being set up on Czech territory. Dummy barriers and misplaced boundary-stones were used to fool refugees on their way out of Czechoslovakia. SNB personnel, disguised as German border policemen, would disarm refugees who thought themselves safe after crossing the faked border line. Refugees thus apprehended would be arrested on charges of attempting an illegal border crossing.

Such border traps were located in the border area west of TACHOV (N 50/P 54), MARIANSKE LAZNE (N 50/P 56) and west of KLATOVY (N 50/L 00).

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